CHAPTER 1.5.6.

MEASURES CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER OF AQUATIC ANIMAL PATHOGENS AND PATHOLOGICAL MATERIAL [AND BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTS]

Article 1.5.6.1.

Objective

To prevent the introduction and spread of *aquatic animal diseases* caused by pathogens.

Article 1.5.6.2.

Introduction

The consequences of the introduction into a country of an infectious *disease* or an aquatic animal pathogen or new strain of pathogen from which it is currently free, are potentially very serious. This is because aquatic animal health and trade may all be adversely affected to a greater or a lesser degree. Countries will already have in place a range of measures, such as requirements for pre-import testing and *quarantine*, to prevent such introductions through the importation of live *aquatic animals* or *aquatic animal products*.

However, there is also the *risk* that *disease* may occur as a result of the accidental release of aquatic animal pathogens during international transfer of packaged materials. Such pathogens may already occur in the country or they may have been imported deliberately or inadvertently. It is therefore necessary to have in place measures to prevent their accidental release. These measures may be applied at national borders by prohibiting or controlling the importation of specified pathogens or *pathological material*, which may contain them.

Article 1.5.6.3.

Importation of aquatic animal pathogens

The importation of any aquatic animal pathogen, *pathological material* [and biological products that may contain infectious agents causing the *diseases* listed in this *Code* should require specific authorisation by the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country*, with the conditions of importation described] or organisms carrying the pathogen should be permitted only under an import licence issued by the relevant authority. The import licence should contain conditions appropriate to the *risk* posed by the pathogen and, in relation to air transport, the appropriate standards of the International Air Transport Association concerning the packaging and transport of dangerous goods as outlined in Article 1.5.6.4.

When considering applications to import *pathological material* from other countries, the authorities should have regard to the nature of the material, the animal from which it is derived, the susceptibility of that animal to various *diseases* and the animal health situation of the country of origin. It may be advisable to require that material be pretreated before import to minimise the risk of inadvertent introduction of a pathogen.

Any material that does not satisfy [these] the applied conditions should be returned or sterilised together with its packing.

Article 1.5.6.4.

Packaging and documentation for transport

The safe transfer of an aquatic animal pathogen, with respect to the pathogen, the handlers and the environment, is primarily dependent on proper packaging.

Basic triple packaging system

The system consists of three layers as follows:

1. Primary receptacle: a labelled primary watertight, leak-proof receptacle containing the specimen. The receptacle is wrapped in enough absorbent material to absorb all fluid in case of breakage.

2. Secondary receptacle: a second durable, watertight, leak-proof receptacle to enclose and protect the primary receptacle(s). Several wrapped primary receptacles may be placed in one secondary receptacle. Sufficient additional absorbent material must be used to cushion multiple primary receptacles.

3. Outer shipping package: the secondary receptacle is placed in an outer shipping package, which protects it and its contents from outside influences such as physical damage, temperature fluctuations and water while in transit.

Ice or dry ice when used in a shipment must be placed outside the secondary receptacle. If wet ice is used it should be in a leak-proof container and the outer package must also be leak-proof. The secondary receptacle must be secured within the outer package to prevent damage after the refrigerant has melted or dissipated.

Dry ice must NOT be placed inside the primary or secondary receptacle because of the risk of explosions. The outer package must permit the release of carbon dioxide gas if dry ice is used. IATA Packing Instruction 904 must be observed for packages containing dry ice.

Documentation

Specimen data forms, letters and other types of information that identify or describe the specimen and also identify the shipper and receiver should be taped to the outside of the secondary receptacle, together with a copy of the recipient's import permit.

Article 1.5.6.5.

Any sender of aquatic animal pathogen(s) or *pathological material* must ensure that the proposed receiver has obtained the necessary import licence referred to in Article 1.5.6.3.

Article 1.5.6.6.

1. Every consignment of <u>aquatic animal pathogens or</u> *pathological material* [or biological products] should be notified [by the consigner to the consignee,] <u>in advance by the sender to the intended recipient</u>, giving the following information:

    a) exact nature of the [product] <u>sample</u> and its packaging;

    b) the number of packages sent and the marks and numbers enabling their identification;

c) date of despatch;

d) method of *transport* used for consignment of products (ship, aircraft, railway wagon or road vehicle).

2. The [consignee] recipient should notify the [consigner] sender of the receipt of each consignment of aquatic animal pathogen or *pathological material* [or *biological products*] on its arrival.

3. When a consignment that has been notified by the [consigner] sender fails to arrive by the anticipated date, the [consignee] intended recipient should notify the *Competent Authority* of the receiving country and, at the same time, the [consigner] sender in the country of origin, so that any necessary action can be taken for investigation to be made without delay.

[Article 1.5.6.3.

For the purposes of this *Code,* the sending of *pathological material* and *biological products* should be subject to the special rules concerning packaging stipulated for perishable biological material by the Universal Postal Convention established by the Universal Postal Union.

Article 1.5.6.4.

For the purposes of this *Code,* vaccines containing live attenuated microorganisms, or live attenuated (modified) viruses packaged or in bulk and sent in large quantities that render the conditions described in Article 1.5.6.3 inapplicable in practice, should be packed in such a way that no outside contamination is possible (solid, well-sealed internal containers, solid and securely fastened protective boxes or cases, a sufficient amount of absorbent material, and labels marked: Perishable biological products Dangerous Not to be opened during transportation).

Article 1.5.6.5.

1. Each receiving country should only accept vaccines for veterinary use for which a certificate is provided stating that the vaccines were officially controlled in the *exporting country*.

2. Vaccines for which the authorisation described in Article 1.5.6.1 has been made and whose identity and conformity with the certificates of origin have been verified, should be permitted entry.

3. However, if inspection of the consignment shows any change in the vaccines for veterinary use that could endanger the health of humans or *aquatic animals,* the *Competent Authority* of the receiving country should cause these vaccines to be seized and destroyed.]